

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01895 011728Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1895

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GR US
SUBJECT: ADMIRAL TURNER PAYS FAREWELL CALLS

1. ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ALLIED FORCES SOUTHERN EUROPE, VISITED ATHENS FEBRUARY 26-27 TO MAKE HIS FAREWELL CALLS ON GREEK OFFICIALS. THE ADMIRAL CALLED ON MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AVEROFF, THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE HELLENIC ARMED FORCES GENERAL DAVOS AND THE THREE SERVICE CHIEFS. MINISTER AVEROFF GAVE A DINNER IN HONOR OF THE DEPARTING CINCSOUTH.
2. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE PUBLICITY ABOUT ADMIRAL TURNER'S VISIT HERE. THE FIRST PRESS REPORT, "THE NEW CHIEF OF THE CIA IN ATHENS," APPEARED IN TO VIMA (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION) ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, THE DAY AFTER ADMIRAL TURNER COMPLETED HIS VISIT. THE REPORT WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND STATED SIMPLY THAT THE NEW CIA CHIEF HAD MADE PROTOCOL CALLS ON THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE CHIEFS OF GREECE'S ARMED FORCES BECAUSE HE WAS LEAVING HIS POSITION AS COMMANDER OF NATO FORCES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 01895 011728Z

ASSUME HIS DUTIES AS DIRECTOR OF THE CIA. TWO OTHER REPORTS APPEARED IN THE PRESS ON FEBRUARY 28 (IN ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA AND LEFTIST ELEFROTYPEN) ALONG SIMILAR LINES. ONE OF THESE REPORTS MENTIONED THAT ADMIRAL TURNER WAS MAKING A SIMILAR FAREWELL VISIT TO ANKARA AND WOULD ALSO CALL ON ITALIAN OFFICIALS IN ROME.

3. THE ONLY EDITORIAL REFERENCE TO ADMIRAL TURNER'S VISIT WAS MADE IN MOSCOW-ORIENTED COMMUNIST RIZOSPASTIS ON MARCH 1. THE EDITORIAL DISCUSSED A RECENT NATO REPORT WHICH IT CLAIMED ATTEMPTED TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF THE COLD WAR AND, WITH RESPECT TO GREECE, NOTED A SO-CALLED "DANGER FROM THE NORTH". THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE MR. CLIFFORD ALSO RECALLED THIS "DANGER" AS SOON AS HE ARRIVED IN GREECE WHEN HE REFERRED TO THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE. MOREOVER, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED, ADMIRAL TURNER'S PROTOCOL VISIT ON HIS DEPARTURE AS COMMANDER OF NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK FOR HIS POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF THE CIA IS NOT UNRELATED TO THIS NATO "ANALYSIS". OTHER THAN THIS DISCORDANT COMMUNIST NOTE ADMIRAL TURNER'S VISIT PASSED WITHOUT ANY ADVERSE PUBLICITY.
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